

MAR 6 1964

# The RAND Corporation

1700 MAIN ST. • SANTA MONICA • CALIFORNIA 90406

5 March 1964

L-4978

Professor J. Lederberg  
Stanford University School of Medicine  
Department of Genetics  
300 Pasteur Drive  
Palo Alto, California

COSPAR

Dear Josh:

I see that Prof. Heden, the biologist member of our COSPAR Consultative Group on Potentially Harmful Effects of Space Experiments, has invited you to be a member of a Working Group to consider the implications and problems of space probe sterilization, and that a meeting of this Working Group is planned in Florence on May 14. I would just like to add my small voice to his in urging that you take part in this effort, since it seems to me that this COSPAR Working Group will provide a rather important channel from the scientific community to the decision making bodies in the U.S. and Soviet Union. Actually, I am not as worried about what NASA is doing as I am about what the Soviet Union may do, and this is because we have had so little response from them about their plans. Every effort that we can make to bridge this barrier should be made, it seems to me.

It may interest you to know who the other people are that Heden plans to invite. They are: \*Ashley Miles (U.K., Lister Institute of London), P.H.A. Sneath (U.K., Medical Research Council), A.A. Imshenetsky (S.U.), A.I. Oparin (S.U.), Florkin (Belgium), and Lwoff (France, Pasteur Institute). I suggested Alan Brown as a valuable member if Sagan or Lederberg could not accept. (\*Also, Carl Sagan.)

As you know, this meeting in Florence will take place at the same time as the annual COSPAR Scientific Symposium, and therefore you may very well be planning to attend it anyway. It is likely to be an interesting meeting.

Best regards to you, and I hope to see you in Florence.

Sincerely yours,



W. W. Kellogg  
Planetary Sciences Department

WWK:cs